

APPROVED: Meeting No. 44-96

ATTEST: *Paula E. Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 38-96

October 21, 1996

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on October 21, 1996, at 7:35 p.m. At the request of the Mayor and Council, the Worksession was televised on Rockville's Cable station.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison

Councilmember Robert J. Wright

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Clerk Paula Jewell and City Attorney Paul Glasgow. Also present were Deputy City Manager Julia Novak, Public Works Director Hal Cranor, Recreation and Parks Director Burt Hall, Director of Community Development Neal Herst, Chief Engineer for Environment Susan Straus, and Superintendent of Parks and Facilities John Hayes.

The Mayor and Council met in Worksession to hear a presentation about the background and status of the Watts Branch Sewer Alternatives Analysis project. Mr. Kuckkahn pointed out that the purpose of the Worksession was to provide an update on the Watts Branch Sewer Alternatives Analysis; however, he said that staff did not expect the Mayor and Council to offer recommendations for some time.

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Future development within the Watts Branch watershed is limited by the available capacity of the existing sanitary sewer trunk main which was installed in the 1960s. There is sufficient capacity to allow for partial development of the King and Thomas Farms. There is no un-allocated capacity of this sewer system. Based on Penrose's projected rate of development, this capacity will be used by 1999. No other development other than the limited amount reserved by the King and Thomas Farm Annexation Agreements can occur in the Watts Branch basin until the sewer is upgraded.

Mr. Kuckkahn explained the public process undertaken by the City, which, he said, included site visits by the Mayor and Council and by citizens. In addition, a number of citizens wrote with many questions; their questions and staff responses may be found in staff's memorandum. Mr. Kuckkahn said that there were no ideal solutions; however, the City was hoping to find one which met the most important criteria developed. There were many concerns about the environment and costs and staff were trying to develop which route was the best one to undertake.

Public Works Director Hal Cranor said that he and Susan Straus met with a group of residents from the lower end of the Watts Branch. Mr. Cranor described the eight alternative upgrades and he said that each of the options looked at by the City had significant negatives related either to cost and/or environmental elements. A chart detailing the estimated 40-year life cycle costs of each of the eight alternatives was displayed. Mr. Cranor said that staff was currently focusing on the analysis of

implementing option 4A, which is to:

Install a new sewer main down Watts Branch by open cut construction with a pulled trench box. The existing sewer would be removed and replaced with a larger pipe on the existing sewer alignment. A jack and bore construction technique would be used for short stream and road crossings. A micro-tunneling technique would be used for crossing I-270.

Mr. Cranor spoke about the features involved with option 4A, including the environmental impacts and costs, life cycle costs and time frame. He also spoke about what would happen with the two major development sites and other yet unidentified properties and future developments if the City chose to do nothing at all. He then described each of the phases, that option 4A would entail. Questions by the Mayor and Council were responded to Mr. Cranor, Ms. Straus and Mr. Glasgow. The Mayor and Council then directed staff to bring forth the following information:

1. An economic (cost) analysis for doing the project in the parks.
2. Additional information on the pump around type systems:
 - what is the "state-of-the-art" equipment?
 - what are other communities using?
 - how many pump stations would be necessary for a pump around system?
 - what do the pump structures look like?

The Mayor and Council directed that staff schedule a public hearing to take place on November 18, 1996 to take citizen comments on the alternatives. Staff was asked to respond to the above questions and to make all of the information available to the public at local libraries, the City Clerk's Office, and the Public Works Department.

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Mayor Krasnow said that the next walk through of the Watts Branch Stream would take place on Saturday, November 2nd, and she encouraged interested persons to contact the Public Works Department for further information about the walk.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m., to convene again in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on October 28, 1996, or at the call of the Mayor.